



Corporate Parenting Panel Agenda

Date: Thursday 1 February 2024

Time: 6.00 pm

Venue: The Auditorium - Harrow Council Hub, Kenmore Avenue, Harrow, HA3 8LU

Membership (Quorum 3)

Chair: Councillor Hitesh Karia

Conservative Councillors: Matthew Goodwin-Freeman
Chetna Halai

Labour Councillors: Simon Brown (VC)
Aneka Shah-Levy

Non-Voting Advisory Member: Valerie Griffin

Reserve Members:

Conservative Reserve Members:

1. Vipin Mithani
2. Govind Bharadia
3. Zak Wagman

Labour Reserve Members:

1. Sasi Suresh
2. Krishna Suresh

Officers:

Contact: Sonia Karimzada
E-mail: sonia.karimzada@harrow.gov.uk

Scan this code for the electronic agenda:



Useful Information

Joining the Meeting virtually

The meeting is open to the public and can be viewed online at [London Borough of Harrow webcasts](#)

Attending the Meeting in person

Directions by car:

Go along Kenmore Avenue and head towards the Kenton Recreation Ground. When approaching the end of the Kenmore Avenue turn right before reaching the Kadwa Patidar Centre.

You will be admitted on a first-come-first basis and directed to seats.

Please:

- (1) Stay seated.
- (2) Access the meeting agenda online at [Browse meetings - Corporate Parenting Panel](#)
- (3) Put mobile devices on silent.
- (4) Follow instructions of the Security Officers.
- (5) Advise Security on your arrival if you are a registered speaker.

Filming / recording

This meeting may be recorded or filmed, and if you choose to attend, you will be deemed to have consented to this. Any recording may be published on the Council website.

Agenda publication date: Wednesday 24 January 2024

Agenda - Part I

1. **Attendance by Reserve Members**
To note the attendance at this meeting of any duly appointed Reserve Members.
2. **Declarations of Interest**
To receive declarations of disclosable pecuniary or non pecuniary interests, arising from business to be transacted at this meeting, from all Members present.
3. **Minutes** (Pages 5 - 10)
That the minutes of the meeting held on 17th October 2023 be taken as read and signed as a correct record.
4. **Public Questions**
To receive any public questions received.

Questions will be asked in the order in which they were received. There will be a time limit of 15 minutes for the asking and answering of public questions.

[The deadline for receipt of public questions is 3.00 pm, 29th January 2024. Questions should be sent to publicquestions@harrow.gov.uk No person may submit more than one question].
5. **Petitions**
To receive petitions (if any) submitted by members of the public/Councillors.
6. **Deputations**
To receive deputations (if any).
7. **Update from Participation Service and Care Experienced Young People** (Pages 11 - 22)
Verbal update from the Participation Officer.
8. **Update and performance for Corporate Parenting Service** (Pages 23 - 32)
Update from the Director of Children Services.
9. **Missing Children Report** (Pages 33 - 48)
Report from Adolescent Safety Development Team Manager.
10. **Virtual School Performance Update** (Pages 49 - 58)
Report from Harrow Virtual School Headteacher.
11. **Update and Performance on Health for Children Looked After** (Pages 59 - 74)
Report from the Named Nurse for Children Looked After in Harrow.
12. **Any Other Urgent Business**
Which cannot otherwise be dealt with.

Agenda - Part II - Nil

Data Protection Act Notice

The Council will record the meeting and will place the recording on the Council's website.

[Note: The questions and answers will not be reproduced in the minutes.]



Corporate Parenting Panel

Minutes

17 October 2023

Present:

Chair: Councillor Hitesh Karia

Councillors: Simon Brown Aneka Shah-Levy
Matthew Goodwin-Freeman Cllr Vipin Mithani

**Non-voting
Advisory
Member:** Valerie Griffin Foster Carer

**Officers (in
attendance):** Joy Bell Participation Officer
Parmjit Chahal Director of Children Services
Jacinta Kane Assistant Director –
Sarah Moriarty Corporate Parenting
Assistant Headteacher,
Christine Nichols Harrow Virtual School
Named Nurse for Children
Joanne Tortipidis Looked After in Harrow
Mellina Williamson-Taylor Senior Education Officer
Head Teacher, Virtual
School

**Apologies
received:** Councillor Chetna Halai

Absent:

58. Attendance by Reserve Members

RESOLVED: To note the attendance at this meeting of the following duly appointed Reserve Members:-

Ordinary Member

Reserve Member

Councillor Chetna Halai

Councillor Vipin Mithani

59. Declarations of Interest

RESOLVED: To note that the following interests were declared:

- Councillor Simon Brown declared a non-pecuniary interest in that his daughter had started working for Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CNWL). He remained in the meeting while the items were being discussed.

60. Minutes

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 7th June 2023 be taken as a read and signed correct record.

61. Public Questions

RESOLVED: To note that no public questions were received.

62. Petitions

RESOLVED: To note that no petitions were received.

63. Deputations

RESOLVED: To note that deputations were received.

Resolved Items

64. Update from Participation Service and update from care experienced young people about their experiences

The Panel heard a presentation from the Participation Officer who confirmed that children aged 4-17 had the opportunity to provide independent yearly feedback. The responses included many positive comments regarding the social workers. The presentation also highlighted that:

- To date, 50 Young People received free gym memberships.
- Integrated training from care-experienced young adults into the Social Work Academy – delivering sessions for international Social Workers and Newly Qualified Social Workers.
- Hosted events and activities for children looked after – where 34 young people attended at least one outing, which included day out to Kidzania, Thorpe Park and Go Ape.

- In September 2023, two care-experienced young adults generously delivered training to the Social Work Academy.

The Panel welcomed two care experienced young persons, who shared their experiences of being looked-after by Harrow Council and received leaving care services. One of the young person stated that she will be graduating this year, she found it very challenging and felt that she had to work harder than other children who were not in care, as had lack of funding and support. She wanted to stay at the foster family home with her younger sister, therefore, applied for universities in that area. However, plans with her foster family had changed and she felt betrayed and had to deal with this stressful situation led her to fail 2 modules in the first year of university. She had received very good support from her social worker and had a good circle of friends who helped her and guided her. She had faced a number of challenges during her time in foster care and believed that at times, foster cares should be challenged by the social workers and that children in care should be advised of what they are entitled to.

In response to a question by a member the young person commented that she felt no one had her back, she had applied for an advocate, however, did not receive any response. She had regular Positive Intervention Programmes (PIP) however, these meetings were all educational and discussions were short. She was not aware that she can raise personal issues during these meetings. She was under the impression that domestic affairs should be kept outside of school.

She was pleased to note that Social workers planned activities and day outs with children and believed that this will have a very positive effect on the children.

It had been recognised that she is now in a better place and is looking forward to graduating as a Social worker. Her experiences motivated her to work in the social care industry.

On the other hand the second young person had a different experience, she had recently graduated from University with a degree in Agriculture. She had lots of support from her foster parents and social workers. She mentioned that she had moved out of the family home, however, kept contact with her foster family and lived very close to them.

The Panel and officers recognised the importance of early interventions of social workers, schools and thanked the young persons for sharing their experiences and the very helpful feedback.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

65. Update and Performance for Corporate Parenting Service

The Panel received a presentation from the Assistant Director of Corporate Parenting which covered a number of areas such as performance scorecard, Policy and Practice updates, Pilots and Innovation and Commissioning updates.

With regard to the performance indicators, Assistant Director of Corporate Parenting stated that Harrow had performed well and achieved the target in all indicators, apart from two areas. One indicator was Children Looked After with up to date dental records at 82%, it was highlighted this is good compared to the neighbouring boroughs. The other indicator was Children Looked After with at least 1 missing episode at 7.5%. Officers were reassured that as the year progressed this indicator will also increase.

Arising from discussion on the percentage of Children Looked After placed more than 20 miles away from home, it was noted that Joint work was underway in the Children & Young Adults with Disabilities Service (CYADS) and commissioning to improve placement sufficiency for children with disabilities requiring residential care so that children could be placed closer to or within Harrow. It was noted that this will be discussed in detail at the next Panel meeting.

Members were informed that Harrow and Coram Ambitious for Adoption had been awarded the Early Permanence Quality Mark, which was awarded to adoption agencies that demonstrated the quality of their service, and their commitment to delivering early permanence for children where adoption is in their best interest. It was noted that three permanent places were already filled.

Housing partnered with Centrepoint to provide intensive, relationship-based support for 5 Harrow care leavers with complex needs and high risk of homelessness. Projected to result in c.£156-£208k savings per year.

The Panel thanked the officer for the detailed report and noted the positive outcomes.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

66. Virtual School Performance Update

The Panel received a presentation on the performance of the Harrow Virtual School from the Headteacher for Children Looked After (CLA).

The Virtual Headteacher drew particular attention to:

- Harrow Virtual School tracked and monitored the attendance of CLA on a daily basis. The Attendance Officer received and responded this information and any anomalies in attendance, and is communicated to social workers, carers and other key professionals in good time.
- Pupils who were emotionally- based school avoiders are also supported by professionals in the Virtual School to include learning mentors, educational and clinical psychologists. Key assessments are conducted in a timely manner and a planned programme of support can be put in place early.

- Overall attendance had increased slightly from 80% -82%.
- 52% (23/44) of pupils with attendance below 90% has an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) or are in receipt of SEN support.
- The ratio of boys to girls with PA is approximately 1:1
- The number of pupils with at least 1 suspension has reduced from 11% (2021-2022) to 8% (2022-2023). Harrow's figures were below the England average which was 10%.
- The national average for Persistent Absence (PA) was 19.1% for children in care for 1 year plus. It was noted that one of the major factor was mental health issues. The ambition was to reduce this to 10% or less.

The Panel acknowledged the positive aspects of the report.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

67. Update and Performance on Health for Children Looked After

The Named Nurse for Children Looked After in Harrow, introduced the report which outlined the key performance indicators for Harrow CLA Initial Health Assessments (IHA) and improvement plans.

It was noted that the CLA Team:

- Record and report dates of dental checks following health assessment
- Update immunisation status of each CLA following health assessment where possible
- Record and report dates of Optician Checks
- 47% of Initial Health Assessment's (IHA) were received outside of timescales. 7 of the 19 late requests were completed within timescales.
- 2 young people refused health assessments.

It was confirmed that the telephone call reminder to carers and young people has been replaced to a text message reminder to confirm their appointment.

The Panel heard a positive case study where a Young Person who had experienced trauma and abuse received a major improvement following an officer review. The CLA nurse had liaised with the young person's social worker which helped to continue to correctly support the young person. This resulted in the Young Person receiving the correct help and guidance to encourage medical treatment.

The Panel thanked the Named Nurse for their comprehensive presentation.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

(Note: The meeting, having commenced at 6.10 pm, closed at 8.10 pm).

(Signed) Councillor Hitesh Karia
Chair

Update from the Participation Service

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Joy Bell – Participation Officer

February 2024



LONDON BOROUGH OF
HARROW

Agenda Item 7
Pages 11 to 22

I need some support with cooking.

I would like some support to purchase winter clothing and work-wear.

I am still in touch with my previous foster carers; they care about me.

My Personal Advisor feels like family.

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I really need some money to buy winter clothes.

I want an Advocate.

Food is expensive and I can struggle to buy groceries.

I am so happy to be living with my foster carers post-18. This is my home.

What we heard:

- almost all young people felt worried about the increasing cost of living – particularly the price of purchasing groceries and the affordability of bills
- ↳ most care leavers reported feeling lonely ‘within a typical week’
- several young people requested support to purchase warm clothing and a winter coat
 - most young people felt uncertainty around the availability of housing
 - most young people shared that their Personal Advisor was easy to contact

What we did:

- all care leavers have recently received a £100 supermarket voucher, as part of the Household Support Fund
- to date, initiatives to address loneliness have included our Care-Experienced Christmas Dinner, the Care Leavers Forum, events and outings, and the availability of Independent Visitors
- all young people who requested support with winter clothing were given a discretionary clothing allowance
- although 20 flats are made available to care leavers each year, demand continues to outstrip supply across London, and care leavers are also supported with private rent and deposit
- young people are regularly signposted to Coram Voice for support around advocacy

During 2023, we have:

- connected 62 young people with free gym memberships, including those out of borough
- delivered two training sessions, run by care-experienced individuals, for international Social Workers and Newly Qualified Social Workers
- hosted 14 events and activities for children looked after – with 40 young people attending at least one outing
- given out 691 Christmas presents to children known to the London Borough of Harrow, including care-experienced children and care leavers

Throughout December 2023, we received the highest number of brand new toys, books, toiletries and gifts donated to our Christmas campaign... **ever!**

- 546 toys, books and gifts were given to 317 children in care, children subject to Child Protection Plans and children subject to Child In Need Plans
- ⇒ children received Christmas gifts from across five services – the Corporate Parenting Service, Social Workers In Schools, Children In Need Team, First Response Team and the Children With Disabilities Service
- 94 giftcards were given to 94 care-experienced teenagers
- 15 sets of toiletries were given to 15 of our most vulnerable care leavers
- 36 toys, books and gifts were given to 32 children supported by Early Support and Keeping Families Together, including those experiencing homelessness or fleeing domestic violence

Christmas Campaign



Gift-Wrapping
Events



In addition to 458 children receiving Christmas gifts...

- as part of our partnership with the Young Harrow Foundation, 10 children were able to spend an hour ice-skating at Westfield Ice Rink
- 3 children saw their first Pantomime, with thanks to the Hill Players!
- we hosted our first Care-Experienced Christmas Dinner, for young people who may be in need of a hot meal and some company during the festive season

Participation Activities



Ice-Skating
“I’ve never even seen an ice-rink before!”

This year, we will be:

- hosting our Care-Experienced Award Ceremony on 15th February
- rolling out Transport For London's travel initiative for care leavers
- 20
- continuing to embed training from care-experienced young adults into the Social Work Academy – delivering further sessions for international Social Workers and Newly Qualified Social Workers
- inducting care leavers to sit on the Fostering and Permanency Panel, ensuring experts by experience are included in the approval and/or renewal of foster carers

This year, we will be:

- endeavouring to treat care experience as though it were a protected characteristic
- offering cooking classes to teenagers and care leavers via London Community Kitchen
- supporting care leavers to apply for Apprenticeships within the London Borough of Harrow
- continuing to run events and activities for children looked after – with outings booked to Sri Lanka vs England at Lords, Wicked and Hamilton in the West End, and Topgolf
- hosting our first residential holiday for children in care, visiting the Isle of Wight for five days (during April 2024)

Corporate Parenting Service

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Jacinta Kane – Assistant Director Corporate Parenting
Children’s Services February 2024



LONDON BOROUGH OF
HARROW

Agenda Item 8
Pages 23 to 32

- Performance Scorecard
- CLA reviews, dental and health, 20+ miles away, Missing children
- Placement Sufficiency

Ref No	Indicator Description	Statistical Neighbour Average 2021/22	England average 2021/22	Harrow 2020-21	Harrow 2021-22	Harrow 2022-23	Harrow target 2022/23	Harrow Q1 2023-24	Harrow Q2 2023-24
1	Number of current CLA at end of quarter	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	182	188	179	N/A	192	191
2	Number of current Care Leavers at end of quarter	Not Published	Not Published	183	189	186	N/A	185	187
3	Rate of CLA per 10,000 children aged under 18	42.7	70.0	30.0	31.5	29.8		32.0	31.8
4	Timeliness of Reviews of Looked After Children	Not Published	Not Published	97.1	89.8	68.8	95%	94.6 (174/184)	90 (162/180)
5	% of CLA with 3 or more placements	10.0	9.0	10.0	13.8	9.5	Q1 - 2.5% Q2 - 5% Q3 - 7.5% Q4 - 10%	1 (2/192)	2.6 (5/191)
6	% of CLA looked after for 2.5+ years and in the same placement for 2 years	69.5	70.0	81.0	68.4	66.7	70%	69.2 (27/39)	82.1 (32/39)
7	% of Care Leavers in suitable accommodation (19 - 21 year olds)	86.4	88.0	82.1	89.9	90.1	90%	96.6 (28/29)	96.8 (61/63)
8	% of Care Leavers not in education, employment or training (19 - 21 year olds)	35.0	38.0	40.0	27.6	28.2	35%	34.5 (10/29)	34.9 (22/63)
9	% of CLA who are looked after 1 yr + with up to date Dental Checks (rolling year)	75.0	70.0	73.0	91.5	91.1	90%	82.1 (92/112)	83.3 (90/108)
10	% of CLA who are looked after 1 yr + with up to date Health Checks (rolling year)	93.0	89.0	99.0	99.1	91.1	95%	91.1 (102/112)	90.7 (98/108)
11	% of children who ceased to be looked after who were adopted	9.0	10.0	4.3	3.8	3.5	N/A	4.8 (1/21)	3.8 (2/53)
12	% Children who ceased to be looked due to a Special Guardianship Order	10.0	13.0	19.1	14.3	8.8	N/A	9.5 (2/21)	3.8 (2/53)
13	% of CLA placed more than 20 miles away from home (snapshot)	21.0	16.0	20.0	16.0	16.2	20%	20.5 (31/151)	18.5 (27/146)
14	% of all CLA (current and ceased) with at least 1 missing episode in year	13.0	11.0	9.0	8.8	8.2	Q1 - 2.5% Q2 - 5% Q3 - 7.5% Q4 - 10%	7.5 (16/213)	8.6 (21/244)

- Q2 Performance : 90% of all CLA had reviews in timescale (162/180 children)
- This is not a KPI that is published, however Harrow's target is 95% of all reviews are within timescale
- Usual timescales are within 1 month of when child first enters care, a second review within 3 months, and within 6 months thereafter
- CLA reviews are chaired by an Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO); Service sits within Quality Assurance and Service Improvement with its core functions consisting of reviewing plans for children in care and monitoring the Local Authority in respect of its corporate parenting and safeguarding responsibilities.
- A total of 18 reviews were late in Q2. The majority of reviews were held within 2 weeks of being due, with 1 CLA review recorded as late – but 1st review was carried out by another LA. There was therefore minimal drift or impact on care planning or timeliness for children
- As an additional safeguard, IROs hold “midpoint” reviews with social workers to ensure actions and updates are completed between the usual 6 month review cycle.

- Q2 Performance: 83.3% of all CLA have up to date dental checks (90/108 children)
- This is better than the statistical neighbour average of 75% and England average of 70%
- Our primary challenge is around teenagers refusing to see a dentist, and work is being carried out by social workers to encourage attendance
- A further 5 children are open to CYADS team and have specialist dentists to meet their needs
- However, our target is for at least 90% of all CLA to have an up to date dental check
- CLA health team will be providing a separate and detailed report at the panel re: Health Checks, challenges and progress made
- We have worked creatively with nurse colleagues to explain the purpose of the medical and to provide reassurance to young people who have been uncertain and unwilling to meet with nursing staff.
- Currently 10 children have not had a medical within the last 12 months.

Placed 20+ miles away

- For Q2, we had a decrease in the numbers of children placed 20+ miles away
- There are 29 children placed 20+ miles away from their home address in Harrow
- 2 children have been placed with early permanence foster carers – and will be adopted
- 1 child is in a Young Offenders Institute
- As requested in the October 2023 meeting, a break down long term vs short term placements 20+ miles away is provided below:

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Placement	Number	Percentage %
Long term placement	23	85%
Short term placement	4	15%

- Q2 performance: 8.6% of CLA have had a missing episode (16/244 children)
- This is a cumulative indicator, so we anticipate the % will continue to increase slightly by end of Q4.
- 13% is the statistical neighbour average for children who have one or more missing episodes, and 11% is the national average for children with one or more missing incidents
- Any missing incident can indicate a child is at risk of harm, so each missing child is reviewed weekly with police and senior social care managers, as well as independent return home interviews being offered.
- Strategy meetings with the police and multiagency network are held to find children and prevent further missing incidents, to identify and address safeguarding risks, including proactive measures such as Child Abduction Warning Notices, phone tracking, and national alerts
- Children who might be at risk of harm while missing from care are also subject to MACE panel (multiagency child exploitation panel) arrangements
- Further detail on how we safeguard and prevent missing episodes will be shared by Donna Kitchen in her presentation.

Across England, placement sufficiency is one of the biggest challenges facing local authority children's services.

Harrow's current **Placement Sufficiency Strategy 2019-2024**, will be reviewed and refreshed this year.

While we have been successful in keeping numbers of children requiring accommodation low compared to SN and national averages, through early intervention with families and our Keeping Families Together Service, placement sufficiency continues to be a challenge.

Change in Ofsted Regulations – from Dec 2023 providers of semi-independent placements have started to be visited by inspectors as part of the new framework

Growing complexity of need and ASD – there is a national increase in children presenting with complex and acute needs, and behaviours that challenge, particularly children with a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder

Sibling groups and parent and child placements – placements for 2+ children or placements with parents continue to be a challenge due to housing and shortage of spare rooms for foster carers within London

Rising costs from providers being passed onto LA's – as the cost of living, in particular wages, utilities and housing costs rise, the costs are being passed on to local authorities and placement costs are increasing, compounded by cost of Ofsted registration for semi-independent providers

Commissioning Alliance

Harrow is an active partner of the CA, working with other London boroughs to improve quality of provision in the market and keep costs down via the dynamic purchasing portal, and scoping of options to pilot residential provisions in-house

Housing First

Partnered with Centrepoint and Housing to provide intensive, relationship-based support for 5 Harrow care leavers with complex needs and high risk of homelessness. To commence in December 2023. Projected to result in c.£156-£208k savings per year

Fostering Recruitment and Retention Hub (DfE Funded)

Partnership with WLA boroughs to improve recruitment and retention on “in-house” foster carers and to compete effectively with IFAs

Keeping Families Together, Kinship Care and Family Group Conferences

Harrow is effective at keeping numbers of children coming into care low, and supporting families with family based alternatives to children becoming looked-after.

Harrow Missing Children 2023

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Lauren Stephenson & Donna Kitchen, Peoples Services
Adolescent Services Team



Harrow Missing Children 2023

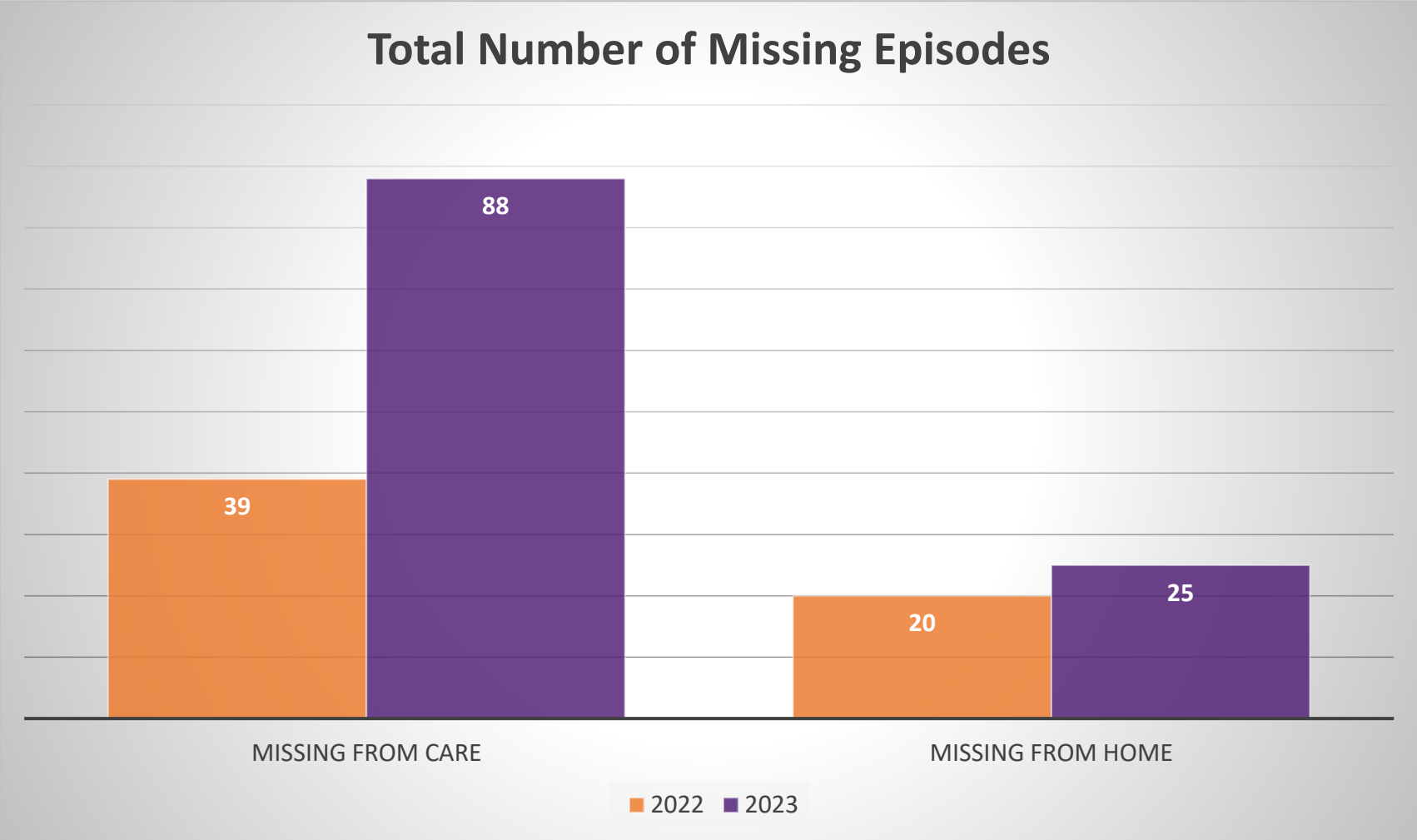
Introduction

- This presentation captures missing children activity for the period 1st April 2023 – 31st December 2023.
- There is data in the presentation for comparison which covers the same time period for the previous year (April – December 2022).
- The data has been obtained from the Children's Services Electronic Database (Mosaic), the weekly Missing Children meeting with police, the monthly MACE meeting, and Return Home Interviews.

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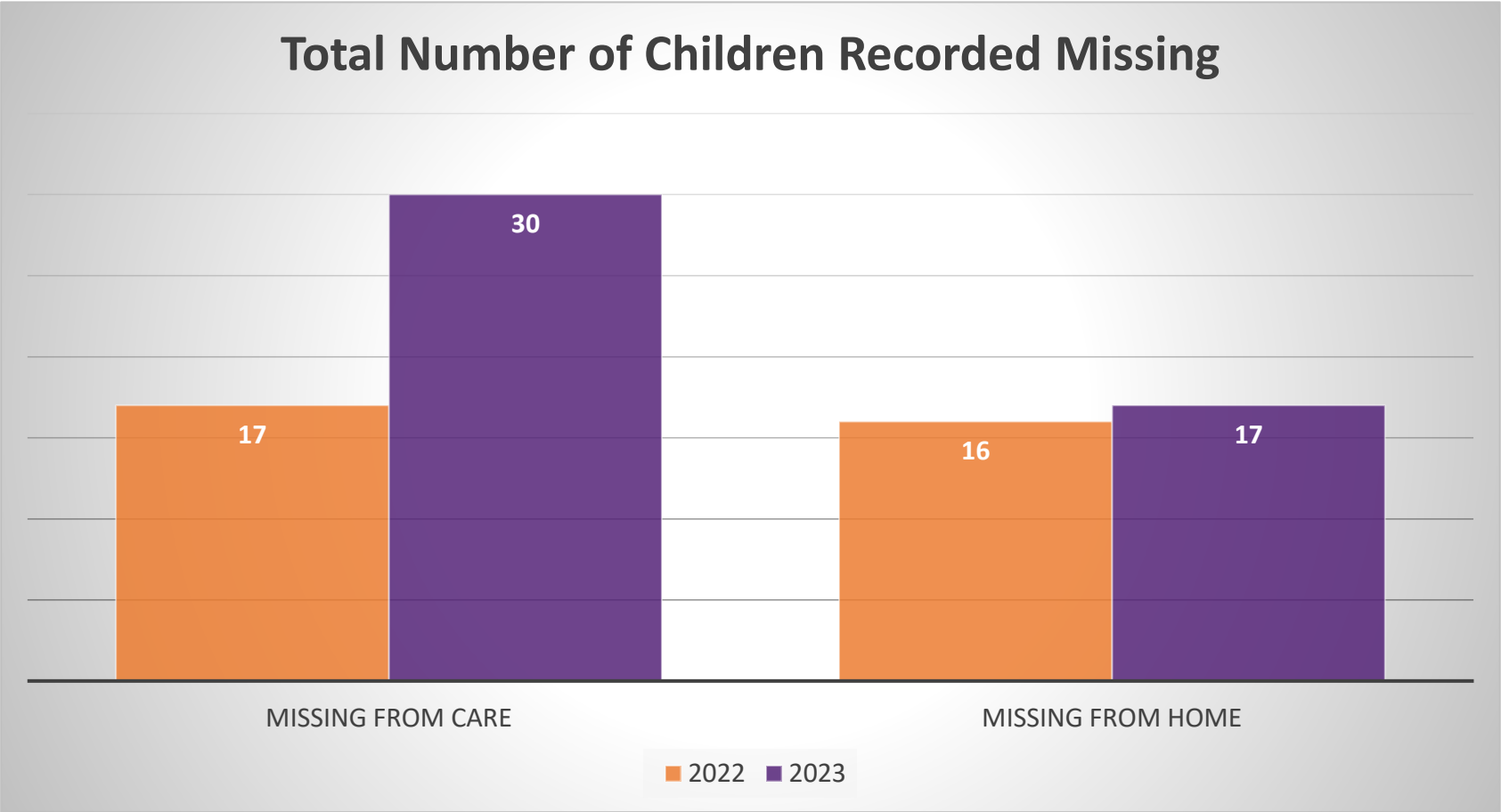
Harrow Missing Children 2023

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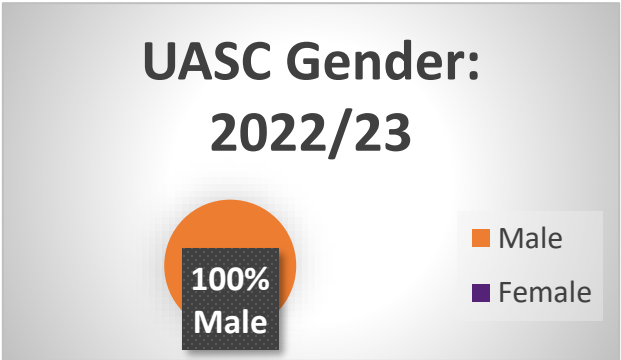
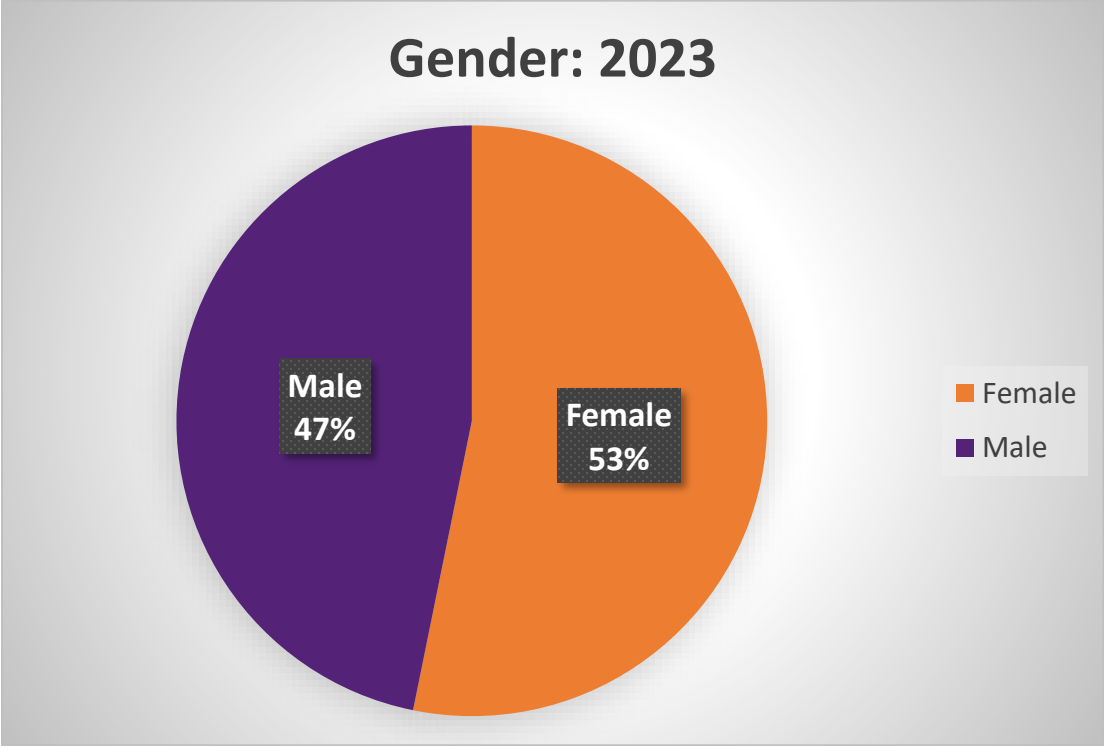
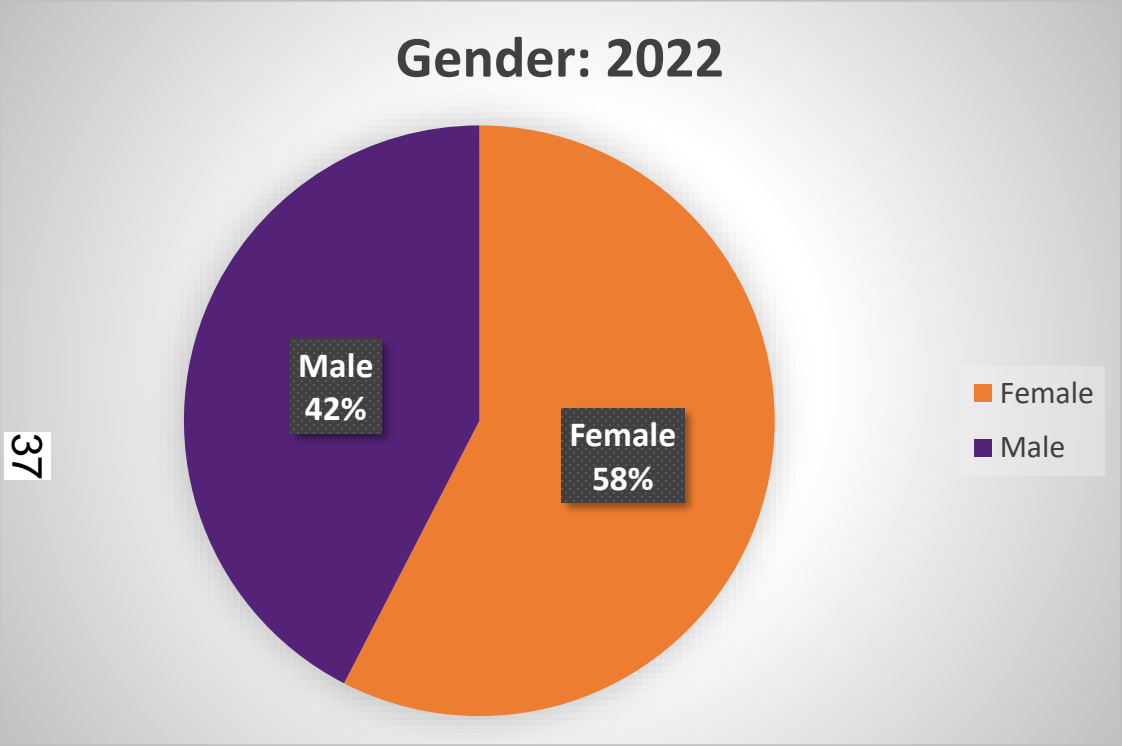


Harrow Missing Children 2023

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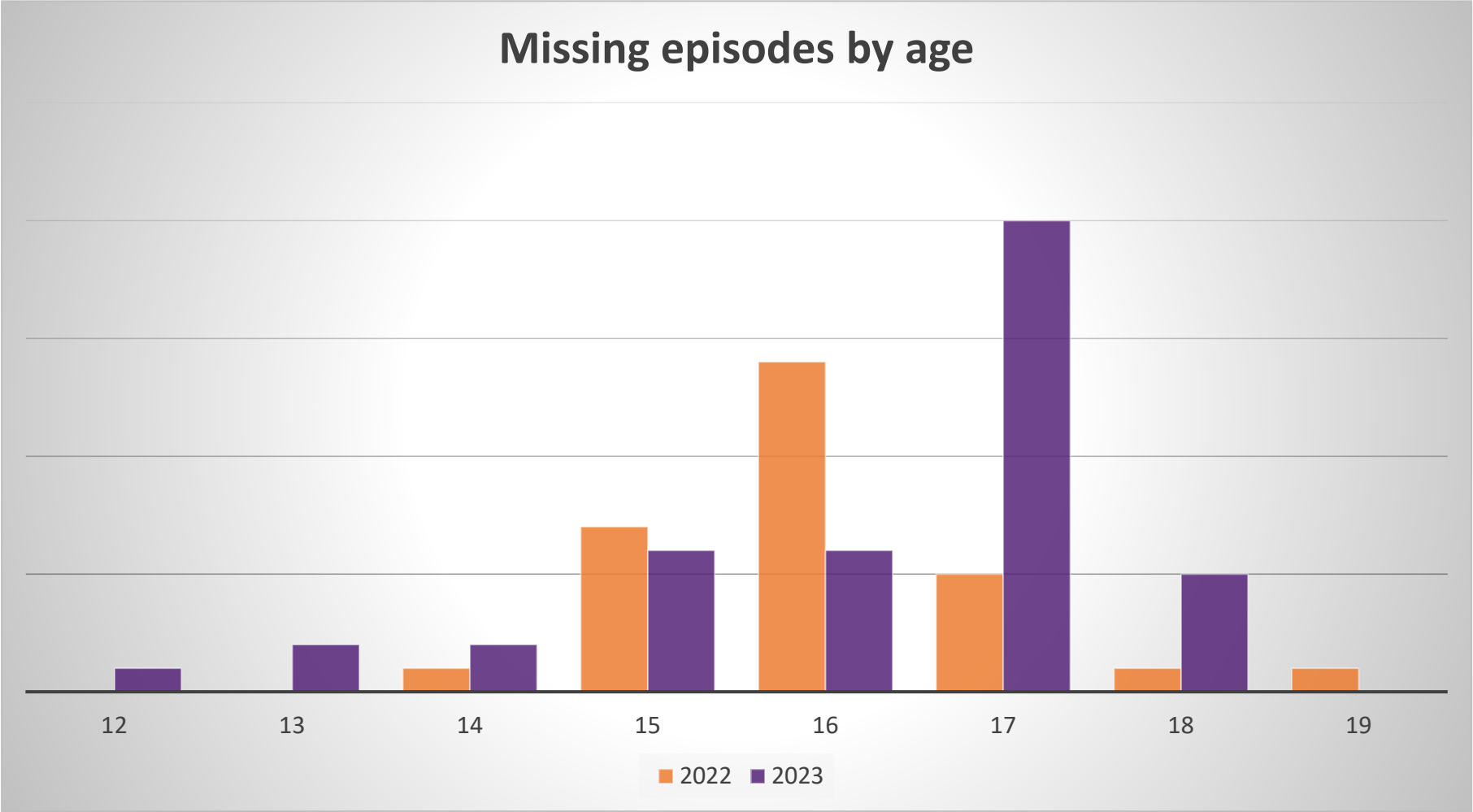


Harrow Missing Children 2023



Harrow Missing Children 2023

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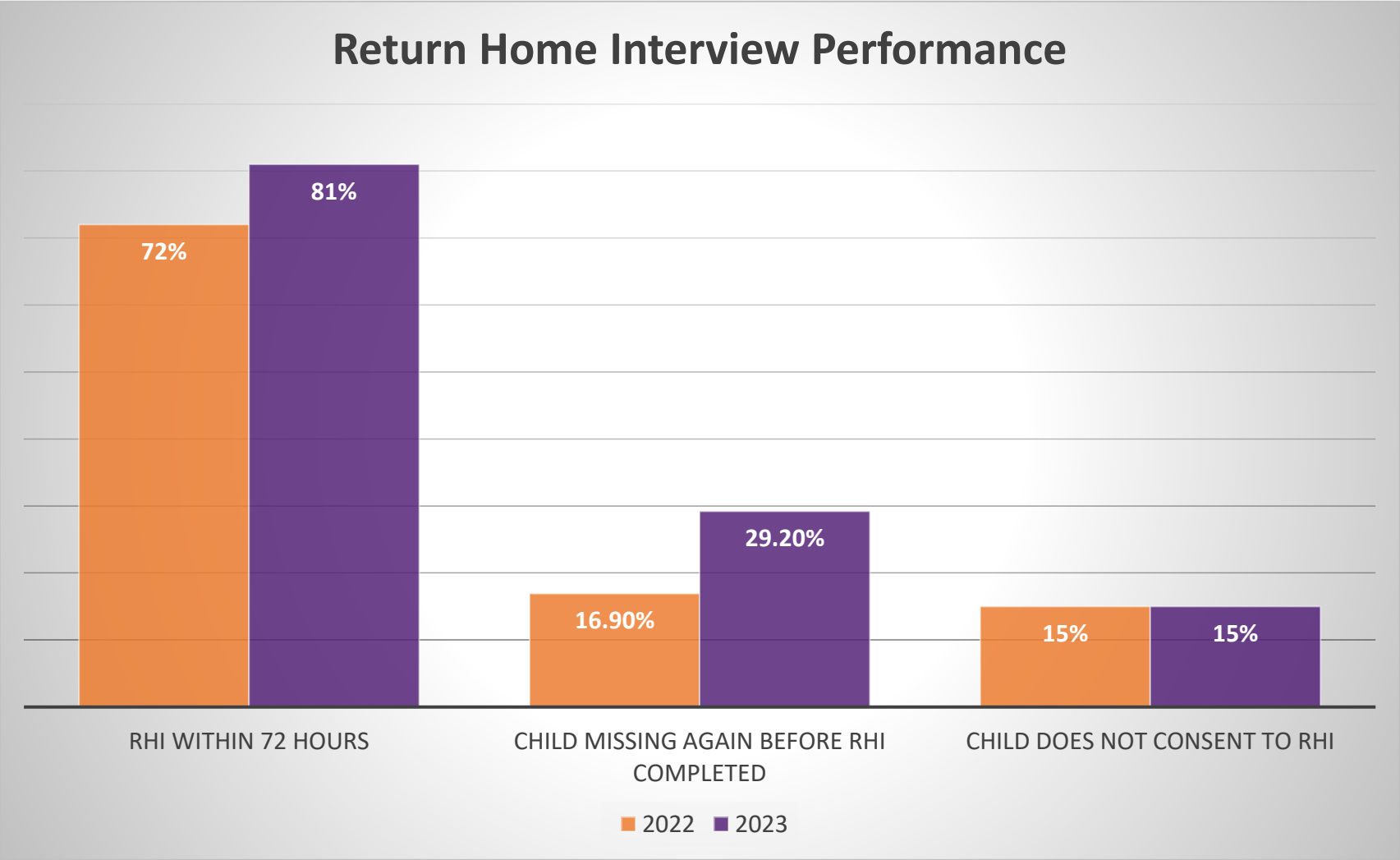


Harrow Missing Children 2023

Children with repeat missing episodes: Ten most frequently missing children 2022					Children with repeat missing episodes: Ten most frequently missing children 2023				
Number of Missing Episodes	Gender	Age at 31st Dec 2022	Case Status	Ethnicity	Number of Missing Episodes	Gender	Age at 31st Dec 2023	Case Status	Ethnicity
7	Female	16	CLA	Other Ethnic Background	9	Female	17	CLA	White or White British
7	Male	16	CLA	White or White British	9	Female	15	CLA	Mixed background
4	Female	15	CLA	Black or Black British	8	Female	17	CLA	Asian or Asian British
4	Female	17	CLA	Asian or Asian British	8	Female	18	CLA	Mixed background
4	Male	16	CLA	Other Ethnic Background	7	Female	17	CLA	White or White British
4	Female	15	CLA	Mixed Background	6	Male	17	CLA	White or White British
4	Male	16	CLA	Asian or Asian British	6	Male	17	CLA	Other Ethnic Background
2	Female	16	CLA	White or White British	6	Female	17	CLA	Black or Black British
2	Female	16	CLA	White or White British	5	Female	17	CIN	Black or Black British
2	Female	17	CIN	Mixed Background	5	Male	16	CLA	White or White British

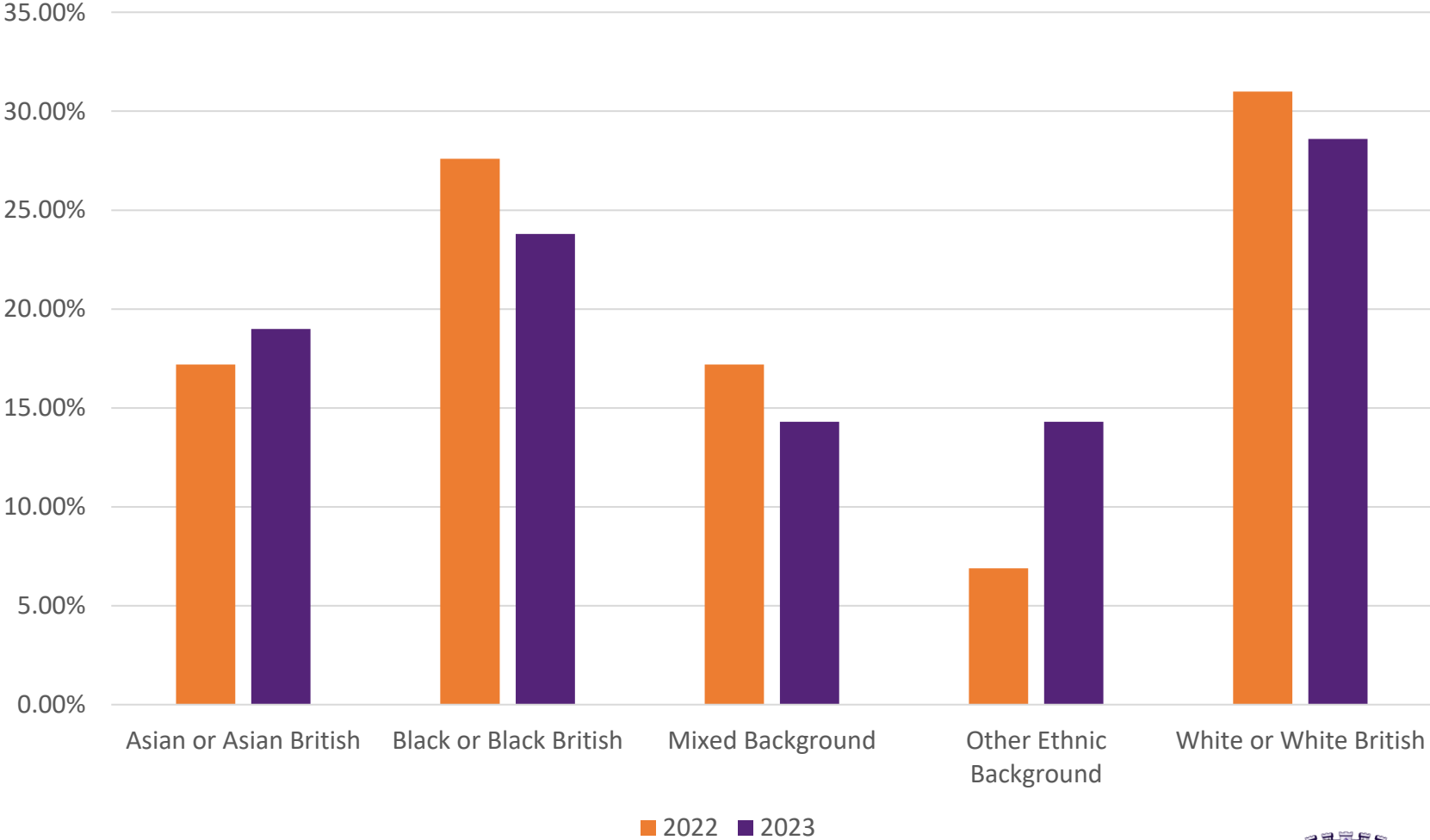
Harrow Missing Children 2023

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Harrow Missing Children 2023

Ethnicity of Missing Children



Harrow Missing Children 2023

Risk Factors Reported within RHI episodes – Known <u>or</u> Suspected	Count
Concerns with family/friends contact	40
Drugs	40
Involved in criminality	39
Alcohol Misuse	37
Child Sexual Exploitation	32
Victim of criminal activity	23
42 Trafficked	16
Child Criminal Exploitation	14
Gangs	13
Mental Health	11
Criminal activity while missing	10
Forced Marriage	10
Child poses risk to others	6
Bullied	5
Harmful Sexual Behaviour	3

Harrow Missing Children 2023

Summary and Conclusions

- There was an increase in the number of missing episodes for CLA in 2023
- This could be due to improvements made to the quality of recording of missing CLA by EDT and MASH
- 43 • The data also reflects that the number of repeat missing episodes for CLA significantly increased
- The 10 most frequently missing children account for more than three quarters (77%) of all missing episodes.
- The most common age for young people to go missing was 17 years old.

Harrow Missing Children 2023

Summary and Conclusions

- There is an over representation of Black or Black British children with missing episodes. This remains consistent with data from previous years.
- The top 5 risk factors identified within Return Home Interviews are concerns with family / friends contact, drugs, criminality, alcohol misuse and child sexual exploitation.
- The reasons given for children and young people going missing from home have remained mostly consistent, that is, staying with friends or relatives, desiring more freedom, being at risk of child sexual and criminal exploitation through county lines or gang affiliation, not being in employment or education.

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Harrow Missing Children 2023

Safeguarding Actions

- Missing children continue to be discussed weekly at the Missing Children's Meeting. In addition to this oversight, several children who go missing are also discussed at the MACE and SWARM panels.
- ⇒ Strategy meetings are held within 72 hours of a child going missing and action planning may include police publicity, the use of CAWNs and Recovery Orders, and a referral to the NRM where there is evidence of exploitation and modern-day slavery
- Response to the JTAI – Missing training delivered to the multi-agency network by Police and Adolescent Services Team, Missing Children data circulated to the MACE panel, and Police provided with Return Home Interview write up

Safeguarding Actions

- Harrow Children's Services is presently undergoing a transformation to ensure that services are more joined up, and this includes more robust joint working between Adolescent Services and the Youth Justice Service with a focus on Early Intervention and prevention.

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- Harrow utilizes a Contextual Safeguarding approach to children at risk because of exploitation and extra-familial harm. The My Safety Plan model which incorporates this approach was developed in 2022. The Adolescent Services Team continue to support children at risk because of extra-familial harm, including children who are Looked After.
- The Missing, Vulnerable and Exploited Children's Coordinators will utilise their relationship with a missing child and attempt contact with them in order to persuade them to return to a place of safety.

Harrow Missing Children 2023

Safeguarding Actions

- Referral and signposting to appropriate agencies, e.g. Rescue and Response / Catch 22 where there is County Lines



Corporate Parenting Panel



Virtual School Presentation 1st February 2024

Mellina Williamson-Taylor
Headteacher Harrow Virtual School

Key Updates



- The extended role of the VSH
- Autumn Term Attendance
- End of Key Stage Performance (Summer 2023)
- Progress against the Cross- Service Action Plan.

Attendance Data- Autumn (2023)

Statutory School- Aged Pupils (5-16)



- 70% (54/79) pupils have attendance which is 90% or better. 19% (15/79) have 100% attendance.
- 30% are persistently absent (PA). 65% (16/25) are male.
- 5% (4/79) of pupils have had a Suspension. All pupils are secondary school aged, with 75% of these students in Key Stage 4. 1 pupil with a Suspension has an EHCP.
- No child has had a permanent exclusion.
- Attendance remains a priority for the VS and its stakeholders.

Extended Duties of Virtual School Headteachers (VSHs)

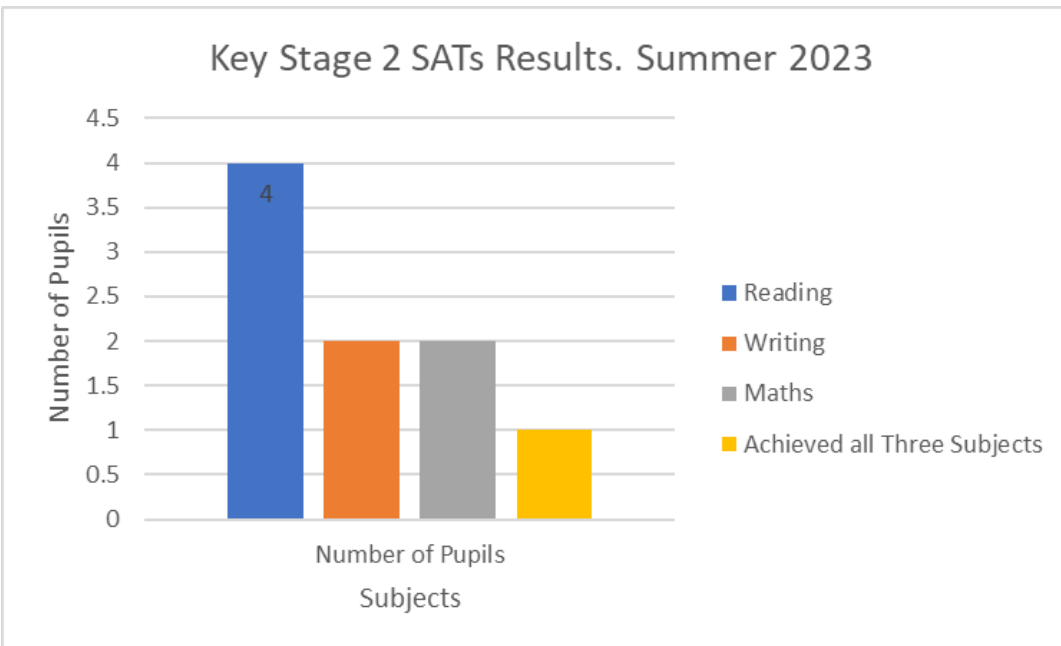


- The Children and Families Act 2014 required every local authority in England to appoint an officer to make sure that its duty to promote the educational achievement of its looked-after children is properly discharged.
- The Children and Social Work Act 2017 promoted the educational achievement of previously looked-after children.
- Non-statutory guidance was provided in June 2021 to extend the role of the VHT to promote the education of every child with a social worker.
- The National Kinship Care Strategy(DfE December 2023.) The VSHs strategic responsibility for children with a social worker will be **expanded to include children in all kinship care arrangements.**

End of Key Stage 2 Performance



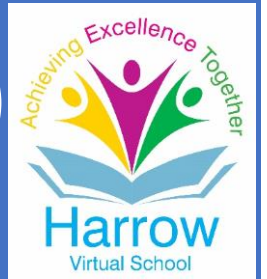
Key Stage 2 SATs Results. Summer 2023



There were 4 students in Year 6. One student has an EHCP.

- All students (100%) met expected standards in Reading.
- 25% (1/4) achieved 'expected' across Reading, Writing and Maths. The national average is 32%.
- 50% (2/4) students achieved expected standards in both Writing and Maths. This is above the national average: Writing 42% and Maths 44%.

End of Key Stage 4 Performance (Provisional)



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Summer 2023	8 or more GCSE passes (Grades 4-9)	8 or more GCSE passes. (Grades 1-9)	5 or more GCSEs. (Grades 4-9)	At least 1 GCSE pass. (Grades 1-9)	Achieved English and Maths Grades 4 or above.
All Year 11's	6% (1/18)	33% (6/18)	6% (1/18)	67% (12/18)	22% (4/18)
Year 11s in Care 1 Year Plus	8% (1/13)	46% (6/13)	8% (1/13)	77% (10/13)	31% (4/13)

There were 13 students in Year 11 that have been in care for 1 year or longer. 2 students have an EHCP.

- 1 student achieved over 8 GCSE passes (Grades 4-9). The highest number of good GCSE passes was a grade 9.
- Just under 50% of students achieved 8 or more GCSEs passes (Grades 1-9)
- 77% of the students achieved at least 1 GCSE pass.
- Over a third of students achieved good GCSE passes (Grades 4-9) in both English and Maths.

Performance at Key Stage 4 is improving. More students (77%) received GCSEs passes (Grades 1-9) when compared to the last academic year (70%). The number of students achieving a good GCSE pass in both English and Maths has also increased by 6%. 31% (2023) compared to 25% (2022).

Year 11 (Current Year 12's) Destinations

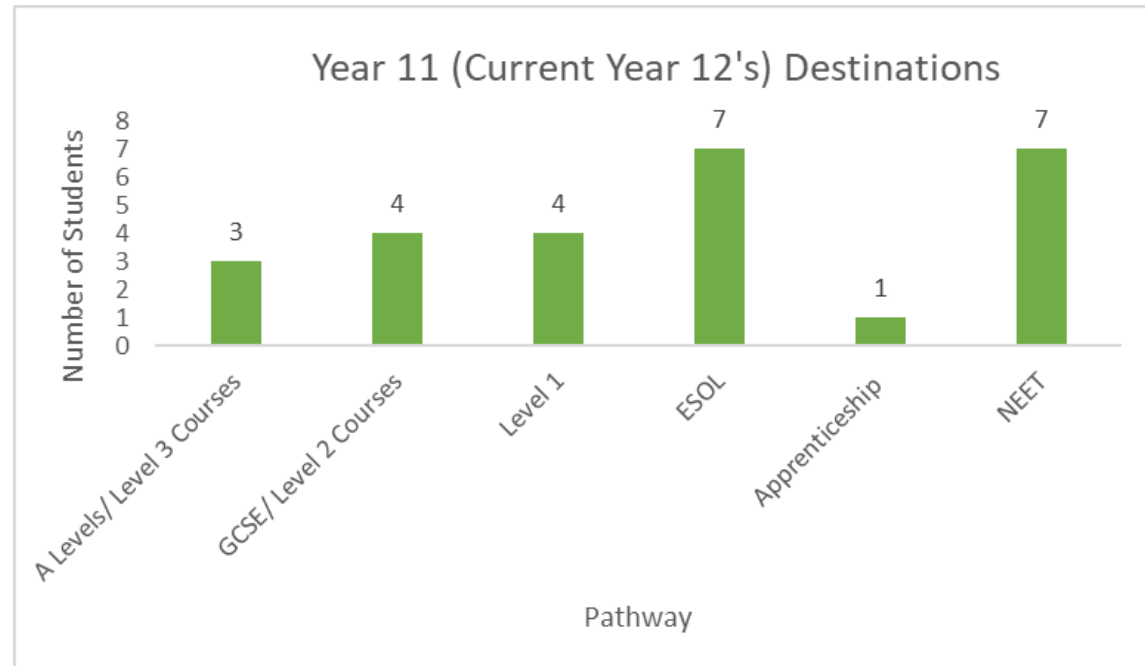


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73% (19/26) of Year 12's are in Education, Employment or Training (EET).

The 3 students undertaking level 3 courses are on track to enter Higher Education.

7 students are currently not in education, employment or training (NEET). There is are bespoke programmes of support in place for them.



Key Stage 5 Overview



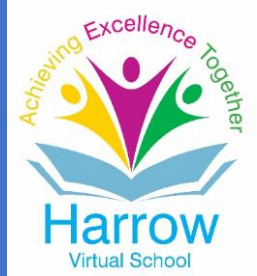
There are currently 86 students in Key Stage 5.

- 77% (66/86) of students are in Education, Employment and Training (EET). A monthly Panel continues to monitor pupils who are not currently in education, employment or training (NEET).
- 28% (24/86) of students have Special Educational Needs (SEN) or Social, Emotional or Mental Health needs (SEMH). 50% of these 24 students have an EHCP.
- Across Key Stage 5, 48% (41/86) receive therapeutic mental health support from CAMHs, Horizon or have a referral in place.
- The average college / 6th Form student attendance in Autumn 2023 was 74.23%
- All students have a PEP in place.

End of Key Stage 5 – A Level Results and Destinations (Summer 2023)

- In 2022-2023 5 students were enrolled on A level or level 3 courses.
- 3 of these students were on extended courses and will complete their studies in July 2025.
- The other 2 students passed their A levels/ level 3 courses. Both are now at university studying Human Geography and Creative Media respectively.
- University students continue to receive support for the Virtual School e.g. equipment for specialist studies or laptops.

Progress against the Cross- Service Action Plan.



- The Section 20 education document for birth families has been drafted. It is currently awaiting approval.
- The increasing number of CLA with mental health challenges, particularly in KS5 continues to be addressed via our new Psychology Team and CLA Health Team.
- The monitoring of the education strength and difficulties questionnaires (SDQs) and carer SDQs will start this term.

Harrow Children Looked After Health Service Corporate Parenting Panel February 2024

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Christine Nichols – Named Nurse for Children Looked After Harrow

Agenda Item 11
Pages 59 to 74

KPI's for Harrow CLA Sept – Dec 2023

Month	Target for IHA 100% CNWL within 20 days of child becoming CLA	Target for RHA 100% CNWL within 6/12 months
September	100%	100%
October	100%	100%
November	100%	100%
December	100%	100%

Exception reporting excludes:

- requests and consent not made available within 3 days for IHA's and within 3 months for RHA's,
- CLA who do not attend or refuse appointments given or are missing
- CLA placed out of Harrow who depend upon another provider to offer an appointment.

Other Service Specification Requirements

The CLA team also assist the London Borough of Harrow to:

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- Record and report dates of dental checks following health assessment
 - To update immunisation status of each CLA following health assessment where possible
 - GP Registration
 - Record and report dates of Optician Checks

Initial Health Assessments Completed

Month	Total Due	IHA completed within 20 days (percentage / number)	IHA completed outside of timescale (percentage / number)	IHA not yet completed (percentage / number)
2023				
September	4	75% (3)	25% (1)	0% (0)
October	15	53.3% (8)	46.7% (7)	0% (0)
November	4	50% (2)	50% (2)	0% (0)
December	5	100% (5)	0% (0)	0% (0)

2023

Time scales from CYP identified as CLA to completion of IHA

Total Number of CYP = 28

- within 20 days - 18
- between day 21- 30 - 2
- between day 31- 40 - 6
- day 41+ (includes not yet seen) - 2

Reasons for Late Completion of IHAs

63	Summary of reasons for late IHA's									
	Month	No of requests received	Late requests for IHA to CLA team	Carer Declined / Cancelled Appointment	DNA / WNB	Referral / Consent issues	Refusal by Young person	OoB placement	Placement move	Young Person in Hospital / Missing / YOI / Tagged
	September	4	3			1		1		1
	October	15	12		1	7		1		
	November	4	4	2				1	1	
	December	5	5					1	1	

Themes for Completion of IHAs

- **Contributing challenges for completion are late requests* , DNA's and carers declining appointments.**

23/28 (??%) of requests for IHA were received outside timescales. 13 of the 23 late requests were seen in timescales.

No of requests received within

Day 4-5 – 7

Day 6-10 - 4

Day 11-20 - 6

Day 21-40 - 6

- **Other reasons can be unpredictable eg placement moves, placed of borough etc**
- *** (late referrals and late consents)**

Review Health Assessments Completed

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Month 2023	Total Due	RHA completed within timescale (percentage / number)	RHA completed outside of timescale (percentage / number)	RHA not yet completed (percentage / number)
September	18	66.6% (12)	16.7% (3)	16.7% (3)*
October	14	85.7% (12)	14.3% (2)	0% (0)
November	18	88.9% (16)	0% (0)	11.1% (2)**
December	9	77.8% (7)	0% (0)	22.2% (2)***

Time scales from CYP identified as CLA to completion of RHA

Total Number of CYP = 59

Number seen:

- within statutory timescales – 47
- late - between day 1-10 – 2
- late - between day 11-20 – 1
- late – between day 21-30 – 1
- late – 31+ days plus (includes not yet seen) - 1

*Two Young people refused health assessments and 1 YP placed out of borough.

** 1 x young person placed out of borough, awaiting an appointment, 1 x young person placed out of borough appointment booked

*** 1 x young person missing, 1 x young person DNA'd appointments

Reasons for completing RHA late

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Summary of reasons for late RHA's	No of requests received	Late requests for RHA	Carer Declined / Cancelled Appointment	DNA / WNB	Referral / Consent issues	Refusal by Young person	OoB placement	Placement move	Young Person in Hospital
September	18	4	1	2			1	2	1
October	14	4						2	
November	18	4	3				3	1	
December	9	3			3				

Themes for Late Completion of RHAs

- The main factor contributing to completing RHA's outside of timescale are late requests.
- 15/59 (??%) requests for RHA were received outside timescales. 11 out of the 15 late requests were completed in timescales.

Late requests received within:

Weeks 12-10 - 8

Weeks 6-9 – 3

Weeks 2-5 - 4

1 Week or less – 0

- Other reasons are unpredictable eg sickness etc

Work Undertaken to Improve Late IHAs/RHAs

- Fortnightly meetings with LA colleagues to improve late requests.
- Liaison with Senior Managers / Team Managers.
- Offer of additional flexible appointments eg Saturday clinics.
- Reminder telephone calls and text messages to carers / young people regarding appointment times.

Partnership Working

- **Named Nurse for CLA attended Foster Carers Forum Nov 2023.**
- **Named Nurse for CLA delivered training to Social Work Academy Nov 2023.**
- **Named Nurse for Harrow CLA delivered training update to Designated Teachers Nov 2023.**
- **Specialist Nurse for Harrow CLA delivered training update to Harrow Community Paediatricians Dec 2023.**

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Case Study

- **BACKGROUND**

- **Young person is a female aged 15.**
- **Currently living with foster carers.**
- 70 • **Young person had a difficult childhood, experienced significant trauma, lost mother due to ill health at a young age.**
- **Has father and brothers but the relationship has been strained.**

Case Study Cont'd

- **Concerns**
- **Concerns around going missing and suspected drug use.**
- **Risk taking behaviour and poor school attendance.**
- **Known to MACE high risk of CSE and CCE.**
- **Recurrent episodes of going missing**
- **History of poor engagement with services, known to CAMHS.**
- **Concerns that she is dating older person with controlling behaviour.**
- **Self-harming and suicidal ideations.**
- **Was offered 3 RHA appointments but did not attend.**

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Case Study Cont'd

- **Intervention and outcome:**
- **CLA Nurse liaised with Support Keyworker at MACE to encourage young person to attend and she attended for her RHA on the 4th appointment.**
- **CLA Nurse waited to see young person who attended after an hour late.**
- **Young person was referred to relevant services to meet her health needs.**
- **CLA Nurse continues to support young person and gave her contact details if she needs any support regarding health.**
- **Young person has now been engaging with CAMHS since the assessment**

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Voice of the Child

- *Young person – It went very well*
- *Carer – Very Good*
- *Young person-The assessment was very good the health advisor was very friendly.*
- *Young person - Very positive, thank you for being patient.*
- *Carer – Very well, easy to talk and express my view*
- *Carer – Very informative and helpful.*
- *Young person – A lot of questions.*

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